

Building a Better Library for the People of Michigan

2006 Annual Campaign

**On a typical day
in 2004, Michigan
public libraries:**

- **welcomed
121,061 people;**
- **circulated
170,422 items;**
- **conducted 120,998
reference
transactions;
and**
- **assisted 27,178
users of electronic
resources.**

ARE LIBRARIES as relevant today as they were 20 years ago? We think even more so!

In today's high-tech world, some might assume that the day of the library is in the past and that funding for libraries really doesn't need to be a priority. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. Libraries are still the place where the great books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines and more are housed, and where trained staff is available to help patrons find the information and materials they seek. But, there is much, much more to "the library" than just the items you can find there.

Libraries are the great equalizer. They provide public computer and Internet access for those who do not have it at home, work or elsewhere. Libraries provide online access for travelers, in-state and out-of-state or even out-of-country. People count on finding a library wherever they may be, and they count on the library to be open, to have current materials and to have functioning, efficient technology.

Libraries are our community centers. In many places, they are the only community center where residents gather on a daily basis to conduct business that may or may not relate to books and libraries. Support your library and you're supporting the entire community.

Americans love libraries, and Michiganians are no exception. At a time when information and entertainment options proliferate seemingly daily, Michigan libraries continue to provide access to nearly anything on the Web or in print, all with friendly, personal research assistance. While technology has changed the way that some customers interact with the library (many services are now available through a library's Web page), data suggest that Michigan residents are using libraries now more than ever, indicating that libraries are at the core of our state's information and community infrastructure.

The Library of Michigan and the Library of Michigan Foundation are working together to secure the future of the state library, as well as Michigan public libraries. We invite you to learn more about how we plan to achieve that mission.

The Library of Michigan Foundation

P.O. Box 30159 • Lansing, MI 48909 • Phone 517-373-1297 • Fax 517-241-9048 • www.michigan.gov/lmfoundation



"We used to feel isolated and out of touch. Today, we enjoy a wide variety of talking books, authors and even current events — just like we used to. We have also learned about computers and new technology. Who would have thought we could be surfing the Web and e-mailing family and friends? We type and the computer talks. We feel more connected with the world again. What a wonderful service this program provides."

Mr. Jim & Mrs. Arlene Moore,
Lansing, SBPH patrons

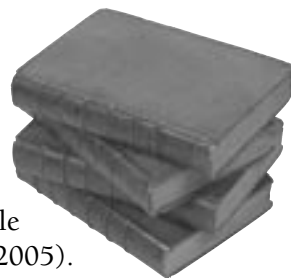
"MeL [Michigan eLibrary] is a great idea! I can't think of any better use of tax dollars than funding this worthy endeavor. I plan to use it often and encourage others to do the same. Thank you for making more library materials more accessible to more patrons."

Quote from MeL user

"MeL is a powerful information portal that is far superior to most commercial sites."

John C. Dvorak, *PC Magazine*

Bet You Didn't Know ...



- There are more public libraries in Michigan than there are McDonald's restaurants — a total of 671 libraries (including branches), while there are only 537 McDonald's (as of November 2005).
- More children participate in summer-reading programs at libraries than play Little League baseball.
- In Michigan last year, libraries entertained and educated 1.6 million people with children's programming. That's just about equal to the total accumulated attendance at Michigan State University and University of Michigan home football games last year.
- Reference librarians in Michigan's public libraries answer more than 7.6 million questions a year. Standing single file, the line of questioners would circle the entire state — both the Upper and Lower peninsulas.
- Each Michigan resident checks out an average of six items a year, while spending less in annual taxes to support the public library than the cost of one best-seller.
- Michigan public libraries are the number one-point of online access for people without an Internet connection at home, school or work. If the people who access these computers had purchased an hour's time on a computer at a commercial provider (like Kinko's) in 2004, they would have paid about \$12 per hour or, collectively, \$118.8 million.
- Michigan residents checked out more than 62 million items during fiscal year 2004. If residents had purchased these books, videos, CDs and other materials from retailers, the cost would have exceeded \$2 billion.



The Library of Michigan

A History of Service, A Collection of Excellence

SINCE the territorial days of 1828 — almost a decade before Michigan achieved statehood — the Library of Michigan was formed to serve state government and the people of Michigan, just as the Library of Congress functions at the federal level. In 1983, the State Library became part of the legislative branch of Michigan government and was renamed the Library of Michigan. Today, the Library of Michigan's purpose is to meet the information needs of the state legislature and government; offer advocacy and leadership for libraries across the state; and serve as a statewide resource for individuals and agencies.

The Library of Michigan Foundation

IN 1985, the Library of Michigan Foundation was established to raise funds for special programs of the Library of Michigan that are otherwise not provided for through state or federal funding. The Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c) (3), tax-exempt organization governed by an independent board of directors representing different geographical locations in Michigan.

Since 1985, the Foundation has raised more than \$4 million, including \$800,000 in private funds to build the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room, which opened in 2003, as well as more than \$1.8 million to develop the Library's genealogical collection, and \$350,000 to support literacy across the state with the Read Indeed program.

At present, the Library of Michigan Foundation's foremost goal is to raise unrestricted support so that its board of trustees can better respond to the changing needs of the Library and the communities it serves.

"Children learn more from birth to age 3 than any other time in life. During this time, what we do matters and will determine the way they learn, think and behave forever. To ensure all children in Michigan have the opportunity for a Great Start and a Great Life, I have launched a statewide effort to coordinate both public and private efforts to achieve common objectives and measurable results for Michigan's youngest children."

Governor Jennifer Granholm

"I am convinced that this program has nearly unlimited potential not only to contribute to greater pride in Michigan, but also to strengthen library-community ties and to inspire additional works by Michigan authors and about Michigan topics."

Dave Dempsey, author of the 2005 Michigan Notable Book *On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century*

A Call to Action ...

The Library of Michigan Foundation has, fortunately, enjoyed a rich legacy of support from some very generous and forward-thinking benefactors, but the job has just begun. To ensure that our State Library can successfully meet the changing information needs of citizens and libraries statewide, the time to act is now!

Your gift is an investment toward providing quality library service and equitable access to information for everyone, not just those who can afford it. Your gift will foster lifelong learning, strengthen literary programs and provide cultural enrichment for the people of Michigan. Please consider joining the many friends who have already pledged their support to securing the future of our State Library and its programs.

Support the Library of Michigan Foundation today at www.michigan.gov/lmfoundation.

2006 Annual Campaign

The Mission

TO raise \$250,000 in 2006 to support critical collections and programs of the Library of Michigan where state and federal funding are lacking.

The Need

WITHOUT a strong Library of Michigan, the services that so many residents have come to rely on will be in jeopardy. Without supplementary support, we run the risk of:

- not properly serving Michigan's residents who are blind or physically handicapped;
- losing the ability to promote the importance of reading early and often to young children;
- not properly preserving our state's printed history; and
- not providing lifelong-learning and career resources to help train job seekers who are entering the workforce or changing professions.

It is in everyone's best interest that our State Library retains cutting-edge resources to successfully anticipate and meet the growing information needs of our residents.

The Benefit

THE Library of Michigan plays an important role in the cultural economic development of our state, contributing to Michigan's prosperity and future growth. It does so by ensuring that electronic access to information is available to everyone, not just those who can afford it. It does so by promoting key initiatives that ensure an educated workforce, by providing literacy programs that benefit our youngest citizens, by maintaining a world-class collection of printed materials about Michigan to fulfill any researcher's need, and by providing leadership and valuable resources for libraries of all types and sizes. The Library of Michigan is a state treasure and a destination for those seeking access to all types of information.

The Goal

TO generate discretionary support for the Library of Michigan's current needs and ensure endowed gifts for the benefit of future generations.

Mission Statements

The Library of Michigan Foundation raises funds to support special programs, services and collections of the Library of Michigan.

The Library of Michigan promotes, advocates and consistently works to achieve the highest level of library service to the State of Michigan, its government, its libraries and its residents.

"What better gift can you give than to contribute to the Library? Its sole purpose is education and information, and to make that education and information the best it can be. What more could you do?"

Al Zehnder, President,
Zehnder's of Frankenmuth,
and former Board Chair of the
Library of Michigan Foundation

"Today, the foundations of Michigan's economy have changed, in response to a worldwide revolution. To thrive economically, Michigan must now adapt and innovate to contend with global — not just national — competitors. To do that, Michigan must ensure that its residents are the best educated in the world and prepared for a lifetime of learning."

Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry's
Commission on Higher Education
and Economic Growth

Funding Priorities

"What became most important to me was the realization of the audience's response as readers, because through discussion I found myself reassured that people are reading deeply, that they want to share and learn the stories behind the stories — something only the author can provide. I came away feeling that love of culture, history and literature was surviving beautifully in these small communities."

Anne-Marie Oomen, author of the 2005 Michigan Notable Book *Pulling Down the Barn: Memories of Rural Childhood*

"Genealogy is, to me, the joy of discovering the ordinary and extraordinary kinfolk who experienced, even influenced, our history. The Library of Michigan is our state's pre-eminent key to unlocking the door to those discoveries."

Glen L. Bachelder, Lansing

Exploring the Past, Preserving Family Heritage:

Abrams Foundation Historical Genealogy Collection

RECOGNIZED as one of the United States' premier genealogical institutions, the Library of Michigan's collection is among the nation's 10 largest. This comprehensive collection of county histories, census records, vital records, land records, military records, city directories, passenger lists, newspapers and more than 8,000 family histories truly earns the title of national treasure. The collection includes more than 100,000 books, microforms and electronic resources providing an array of materials to those searching their ancestral roots.

As the country's second-largest hobby, genealogy gives researchers a glimpse into the past. Studying family history helps to preserve the stories and heritage of people who came to this country and built our great nation. As the State Library, the Library of Michigan is in a unique position to promote family history and to collect and preserve the materials that aid in that pursuit.

Beyond the benefits of tracing the roots of family trees, family history research yields another key benefit for Michigan: boosting cultural tourism. The Abrams Genealogy Collection serves 160,000 visitors a year from as far as Canada and Europe. They come to conduct research, spending thousands of dollars on hotels, meals, gas and entertainment.

FUNDING FACT:

Because of the Library of Michigan's national standing as a top family-research destination, researchers have come to expect a top-tier collection. Your gift will help the Library keep up with the fast-changing digital environment. That means adding new electronic subscriptions for the Library; adding new technology and equipment for public use; annually updating books, microforms, standing orders and periodicals; and preserving and digitizing older materials before they become too fragile to handle.

Protecting Michigan's Printed History: Rare Book Collection

COMPOSED of nearly 20,000 items (around 9,000 titles), the Rare Book Collection is housed in the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room. Its reading room was named in honor of Michigan's first elected woman lieutenant governor in recognition of her distinguished career and lifelong commitment to libraries.

FUNDING FACT:

The competition for materials about Michigan is fierce. Your gift will ensure that our state's rare and historical literary treasures find a home in the State Library and are preserved for the study and enjoyment of this and future generations.



Audubon, John James. *The Birds of America: From Drawings Made in the United States and Their Territories*. Published: New York, 1840.

The Rare Book Collection includes printed books, rare maps, letters, prints and scrapbooks that focus on six main areas: natural history, law, angling, travel and exploration, Native Americans and Michigania. The collection holds hundreds of rare, unique and irreplaceable items dating from before Michigan was a state. These unique treasures give people a closer look at American

traditions and our state's history, and showcase the territory, heritage and life of those who settled in Michigan centuries ago.

Funding Priorities *continued from page 5*

Providing a Library for All:

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH)



THIS extraordinary Library of Michigan program serves people who are blind, visually impaired or physically unable to hold a book or turn pages. SBPH provides full library service to its users by mailing Braille books, talking books (books on tape) and the very popular described videos (movies with a second track added for descriptive narration of scenes and scenery). SBPH customers participate in this lending program at absolutely no cost to them, with materials mailed directly to their homes.

The SBPH collection includes 16,000 Braille titles, 50,000 titles on tape (330,000 recorded cassettes in all) and 300 voice-described videos. Staff fills up to 1,800 material requests daily! The Library of Michigan believes that all citizens are entitled to be active participants in their communities and in today's world. Through SBPH, we're helping to make that happen. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/sbph.

FUNDING FACT:

Michigan has an estimated 140,000 residents eligible to use SBPH. Yet only 11.5 percent are currently being served. Your gift will help the Library reach a larger number of patrons and satisfy their demands for updated materials and adaptive-technology equipment to better serve their needs.

Boosting Literacy, Promoting Our Literary Heritage:

Michigan Notable Books

IN their leadership roles, state libraries can serve as catalysts to nurture their communities' literary culture and information literacy. The Library of Michigan, as our State Library, promotes the breadth and depth of Michigan's talented author and illustrator pool, and ensures equitable access to learning. Through a number of key initiatives that continue to grow in scope and ambition, the Library of Michigan is on track to reach a record number of residents in 2006.

Through the Michigan Notable Books program, the Library of Michigan actively promotes the work of Michigan authors. Twenty outstanding titles are chosen each year and become the focus of dozens of local library programming efforts. By taking these literary treasures to the people, Michigan Notable Books inspires the public's use of libraries to access Michigan cultural resources, raises residents' awareness of Michigan's literary heritage and, most importantly, encourages reading and lifelong learning as a truly worthwhile pursuit. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/notablebooks.

Michigan Reads!

THE Library of Michigan has taken up the pledge of reaching the state's youngest readers through the *Michigan Reads!* One-state, one-preschool-book program, launched in 2004. Highlighting the importance of reading and sharing books with children ages 0 to 5, Michigan Reads! reaches kids during their most critical developmental time, boosts literacy while better preparing them for later school success, and encourages parents, caregivers, siblings and others to read the chosen book to their children.

Why should states have emergent-literacy programs? Emergent literacy is defined as what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read or write. As our schools and parents struggle with the poor reading abilities of many children, statewide programs such as Michigan Reads! help create vital partnerships between libraries, parents and early-childhood educators to help tackle this growing challenge. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.

FUNDING FACT:

National research shows that only 5 percent of children learn to read effortlessly; 20 percent to 30 percent learn to read relatively easily once they are in school; and 60 percent will face formidable difficulties. What parents do and don't do in the preschool years has a lasting impact on children's reading ability. Early childhood literacy programs such as Michigan Reads! lay the groundwork for a strong and educated workforce. Your gift is an immediate investment that will pay long-term economic and educational dividends for the state.

Opening the Door to Virtual Learning: Michigan eLibrary (MeL)



PERHAPS the most ambitious project for the Library of Michigan, the Michigan eLibrary (<http://mel.org>) is the great equalizer as it promotes information literacy for Michigan residents. This free, online library provides 24-hour access to the information residents need, when they need it, and in the format they desire. MeL provides an environment appropriate for children and adults with no advertising. Containing specific resources that can't be found anywhere on the open Web, MeL is a powerful research tool for professionals, job seekers, students of all ages and hobbyists.



MeL provides quality resources selected by professional librarians for reliable and timely information. Some resources (such as MeL Internet Collection) are free and accessible to the entire world; others (such as MeL Databases) are available exclusively for use by Michigan residents, because the Library of Michigan has purchased the right for any Michigan resident to use them. How do you get there and what can you find? All residents need is an Internet connection from anywhere in the world, a PC and a Michigan driver's license or state ID number.

Michigan eLibrary explorers get an array of powerful learning tools that cut across a mix of information resources, including:

- MeLCat, a comprehensive and growing catalog of participating libraries' holdings that allows users to easily identify, locate and request speedy delivery of books and materials to their own libraries, no matter where in the state the materials are housed;
- Millions of articles (many full-text) from thousands of magazines, newspapers and journals, covering all subject areas and age levels;
- Thousands of readily accessible general-interest, non-fiction, electronic books on a variety of subjects;
- Pamphlets, maps, charts, graphs and images;
- Practice tests for academic or career preparation (elementary through adult); and
- A collection of librarian-selected Internet sites, covering a wide range of topics such as career-change and consumer-health resources, and homework assistance.

Libraries are among the most effective of public services, serving more than two-thirds of the public with less than 2 percent of all tax dollars. Because the Library of Michigan is able to take advantage of economies of scale, and because MeL is relevant and useful to so many different kinds of libraries, organizations, businesses, schools and individuals, its statewide impact can be phenomenal.

In the past year, the Michigan eLibrary logged more than 15 million information retrievals from the databases alone. However, without funding to build and market the full scope of MeL, we risk not putting this invaluable resource into the hands of every Michigan resident.

FUNDING FACT:

MeL has a strong presence in K-12 public education, and students and teachers alike depend on its resources. Also available from home, MeL is a great tool for preparing young people for productive college education and careers. Two of MeL's most popular databases with schoolchildren, parents and educators are SIRS Discoverer and Electric Library Elementary. Both databases are designed to develop research, reading, writing, language and computer skills. State funding was used to fund these databases at an annual cost of \$126,000 for SIRS and \$168,000 for the Electric Library Elementary. This funding has been taken away, resulting in a compelling need to seek alternative support to continue to provide these key educational resources for the young people of our state.

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